

[19th August 1925]

The action taken against the President, Chicacole taluk board, for alleged irregularities.

* 98 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the action the Government have taken regarding the President of the Chicacole taluk board who spent during 1921-22 and 1922-23 large sums of the taluk board money on improvements to his land and property in certain villages so as to appreciate their selling price, and who gave the chief contracts of the board for 1922-23 amounting to Rs. 29,544 out of a total of Rs. 48,000 to a single contractor?

A.—The land for the improvement of which taluk board funds were spent has since been transferred to the taluk board.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I would like to know how the rate-payers are benefited by the inclusion of this land in the taluk board."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The taluk board ought to know it best."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"The taluk board president admittedly wanted to improve his own land and the Government have acquired it or something like that has been done. Is that considered to be an adequate compensation for the loss of the money of the board?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"That is matter left to the discretion of the board."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Is that transference an action taken against the president of the board for his having spent the money towards his own lands?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The complaint was that the land did not belong to the local board and the land has been transferred to the board."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"My question is whether transference was made as an action against the president by the Government."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Yes."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"Does the Government think that it is sufficient action against the president who according to the audit report is guilty of so many misdeeds?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Yes."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"May we know to which political party that president belongs?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I cannot answer the question."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"My question has not been answered in full. My question is 'what action the Government have taken regarding the president of the Chicacole taluk board . . . who gave the chief contracts of the board for 1922-23 amounting to Rs. 29,544 out of a total of Rs. 48,000 to a single contractor' I want to know what action has been taken."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"I have already answered the question."

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Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“ Does not the Government think of a dissolution of the taluk board as a solution for finding out whether in an election that would be consequent he is returned ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I think the election is coming off in September next.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know if he is a nominated president ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I think he is an elected president.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—“ May I know whether any steps have been taken to launch any prosecution against this gentleman, the president of the taluk board, and whether there was any such proposal before the Government ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ There was no proposal of the kind before the Government ”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—“ Does the hon. the Minister say that no such attempt was made and that in that connexion the Law Department or the Public Prosecutor was not consulted about it ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ If there was any such proposal, the Government would be justified in consulting the Law Department. There was no such proposal.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—“ Did he not stand for election on the last occasion as a Justice candidate ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I do not know.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—“ Did he not subsequently withdraw from the contest ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I do not know.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ May I know who is to make the proposal that action has to be taken by the Government ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ The Audit department may report ; or the president of the district board may apply for sanction for prosecution.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Do the Government say that there is no other remedy to set such matters right ? ”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“ Has not the Government seen that portion when it reviewed the audit report ? ”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ And when I tabled the question ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ The Government have taken notice of the audit report.”

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ May I know, Sir, if we are not transgressing the rules you laid down yesterday in regard to interpellations ? ”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—“ May I know what money has been spent on it and what amount has been spent to appreciate the value of the President's own land ? ”

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The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"The Government have no information. But I believe that the benefit of the improvement will go to the taluk board."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"First of all the taluk board money was spent on the president's private land in order to appreciate the value of the land. What money has been paid as also for improving the land itself?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I am sorry the hon. Member is labouring under a mistake. No price was paid."

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—"Was it transferred as a gift, a free gift?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Yes."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Was it a vacant land?"

Contribution to the Andhra Jatheeya Kalasala by the Chatrapur taluk board.

* 99 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the taluk board of Chatrapur, Ganjam district, sanctioned a sum of Rs. 25 for the Andhra Jatheeya Kalasala, Masulipatam; and

(b) whether objection has been raised to the said grant on the ground that it is not an institution recognized by Government?

A.—(a) & (b) The answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"May I know if the Government was not making a contribution to this Kalasala?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"They have been making the contribution. But the Director of Public Instruction since reported that it did not deserve the contribution."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—"I was told that the Minister was going to reconsider the question."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Yes, if an application is made, it will be considered on its merits."

Alleged issue of surcharge certificate against certain municipal councillors of Tirupati.

* 100 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether a surcharge certificate has been issued by the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts against six municipal councillors of Tirupati in respect of a sum of Rs. 5-8-0 expended by the council for a telegram to Mahatma Gandhi regarding his grave illness in January 1924;

(b) the reason why the surcharge order was issued; and

(c) whether the Municipal Council, Tirupati, has protested against such surcharge?